

## REMARKS

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by (United States Patent No. 6,072,662 to Utsunomiya. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because the cited reference fails to disclose a head slider including, *inter alia*, a disk-facing surface that includes both an air bearing surface "raised from" the disk-facing surface and a portion including a first groove "recessed within" the disk-facing surface, as now defined in amended independent Claim 1

One example of an embodiment of a head slider defined by independent Claim 1 is shown in Applicant's Figure 1, which includes a disk-facing surface 12. In this embodiment, the air bearing surface includes front rail 32, which further includes front pads 40 and 42. Further, this embodiment also includes portion 52, which is recessed within the disk facing surface 12. Thus, Applicant's Figure 1 embodiment shows one example of a head slider with a disk-facing surface that includes both an air bearing surface raised from it (rails 32 with pads 40 and 42) and a portion recessed within it (groove 52).

In contrast, the head slider of the Utsunomiya reference fails to include such a configuration. In the August 7, 2007 Final Office Action, the Examiner referred to Figures 6(b) and 7 of Utsunomiya and equated rail portion 12a with the claimed disk- facing surface; equated rail portions 12 and 13 with the claimed air bearing surface; and equated the area between rail portions 12 and 13 with the claimed portion recessed from the disk facing surface. However, as can be seen from a review of Figures 6(b) and 7 of Utsunomiya, rail portion 12a cannot be considered as the claimed "disk-facing surface" because it lacks the claimed "portion recessed within

“said disk facing surface,” as now recited in independent Claim 1. Further, the area between rail portions 12 and 13 cannot be considered as the claimed “portion recessed within said disk facing surface” because, *inter alia*, this area does not even contact rail portion 12a, and therefore it cannot be considered as being “recessed within” rail portion 12a. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this §102(b) rejection of independent Claim 1 and associated dependent Claims 2-6.

Claims 7, 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Utsunomiya in view of United States Patent No. 6,801,399 to Nakano. Claims 7, 9 and 10 all depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1, and therefore include all of the features of the base claim, plus additional features. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the reasons discussed above in traversing the rejection of Claim 1 based on Utsunomiya alone, and also because the Nakano reference fails to remedy the deficiencies discussed above, nor was it relied upon as such.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Utsunomiya in view of Nakano in further view of Utsunomiya again. As Applicant is best able to understand this rejection, the Examiner is intentionally citing the same Utsunomiya reference in view of itself. Regardless, this rejection should be withdrawn because Claim 8 indirectly depends from independent Claim 1, and therefore includes all of the features of Claim 1, plus additional features. Thus, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the reasons discussed above in traversing the rejection of Claim 1 based on Utsunomiya alone, and also because

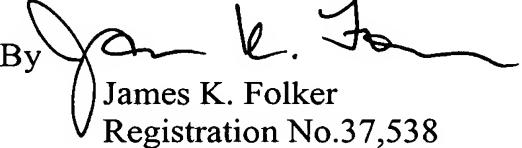
the Nakano reference fails to remedy the deficiencies discussed above, nor was it relied upon as such.

Applicant has also added new Claim 11-20. Applicant respectfully submits that new Claims 11-20 are also allowable over the cited references.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that this Application, including Claims 1-20, is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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October 23, 2007

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